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Department of State

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OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

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FURTHER, SHULTZ

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INFO LOG-08 AOS-08 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODD-00 NSCE-00
NSAE-B0 L-03 PM-18 EAP-00 PA-02 INRE-00 ACDA-12
USIC-B0 SP-02 C-01 PRS-01 F-02 T-01 /B48 R

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FM SECCSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12350: N/A

TAGS: PREL, SA, CH, US

PA Exemptions

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON SAUDI ARABIA'S CHINESE
MISSILE ACQUISITION

1. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE APPROVED FOR
USE IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SUBJECT MISSILE
ACQUISITION. EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED TO CONSULT WITH THE
DEPARTMENT BEFORE RESPONDING DIRECTLY TO ANY SUCH
QUESTIONS.

2. Q. HAS SAUDI ARABIA ACQUIRED A NEW CHINESE
INTERMEDIATE RANGE SURFACE TO SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEM
WHICH IS CAPABLE OF DELIVERING A NUCLEAR WARHEAD?

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN IN
CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA CONCERNING
INDICATIONS THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS ACQUIRING SUCH A MISSILE
SYSTEM FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THE UNITED
STATES BELIEVES THAT THE ACQUISITION OF SUCH A SYSTEM IS
NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.

THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA HAS CONFIRMED THAT IT IS
ACQUIRING AN INTERMEDIATE RANGE SURFACE TO SURFACE
MISSILE SYSTEM BUT HAS ASSURED US CATEGORICALLY AT THE

VERY HIGHEST LEVEL THAT SAUDI ARABIA DOES NOT HAVE, NOR
DOES IT INTEND TO ACQUIRE, ANY NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. THE
GOVERNMENT OF CHINA HAS STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT IT WILL
NOT EXPORT NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO ANY GOVERNMENT. WE ACCEPT
THESE ASSURANCES.

Q. DOES THIS MISSILE SYSTEM POSE A THREAT TO ISRAEL?

A. THE MISSILE SYSTEM WOULD HAVE A RANGE WHICH WOULD
INCLUDE ALL AREAS OF THE MIDDLE EAST. IT IS ANOTHER PART
OF A DISTURBING REGIONAL TREND IN SURFACE TO SURFACE
MISSILE PROLIFERATION. THE SUM TOTAL OF THE
PROLIFERATION IS A DEGRADATION OF THE SECURITY OF ALL
STATES IN THE REGION.

Q. WHAT ARE WE ASKING THE SAUDIS TO DO NOW THAT THEIR
ACQUISITION OF THIS SYSTEM HAS COME TO LIGHT?

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS
BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA ON THIS MATTER. I WILL NOT GO
INTO THE DETAILS OF THESE EXCHANGES.

Q. HAVE WE TALKED TO THE ISRAELIS OR THE CHINESE?

A. I DO NOT INTEND TO DISCUSS OUR EXCHANGES ANY